

WHITE HOUSE
FAITH-BASED
AND
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES

FAITH-BASED
AND
COMMUNITY
MENTORING
THAT
CHANGES LIVES



Program Overview

January 23, 2008

INTRODUCTION

COMPASSION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

In January 2007, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) launched a series of monthly Compassion in Action Roundtable meetings to highlight organizations, programs and policies addressing critical social needs. The roundtables convene and facilitate discussion between policymakers, government officials, philanthropists, and faith-based and community service providers around targeted issues.

The events reveal the President's Initiative as a broad-based, community-centered reform agenda, showcase innovative projects and promising practices, and draw attention to government efforts to expand and support the work of faith-based and community organizations actively engaged in serving their neighbors and communities.

Today's event highlights Faith-Based and Community Mentoring that Changes Lives. Specific, tangible resources for struggling individuals—from food stamps or resume writing to attire from a clothing closet—can provide important help in difficult times. However, the challenges many people face are often deeper and more complex than can be addressed with a single service. For many men, women and youth with great needs, the personal guidance and support of a caring mentor or “life coach” may be the only thing that can make the difference between repeated struggles and a hopeful future. Research indicates that a long-term relationship with a caring mentor can make a lasting impact in the life of an at-risk individual.

The Faith-Based and Community Initiative is built from the conviction that the most effective way to address our communities' great needs is to draw upon the unique strengths of every willing community and faith-based partner. The tremendous expansion of mentoring efforts in recent years has demonstrated the transformational power that comes from neighbor helping neighbor -- whether children coping with the incarceration of a parent, adolescents struggling against peer pressure, or adults re-entering society after prison.

FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY MENTORING THAT CHANGES LIVES

COMPASSION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

JANUARY 23, 2008

9:30 A.M. TO 11:45 A.M.

9:30 am

Welcome and Introduction

Jay Hein, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director
White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

9:40 am

Mentoring and the Amachi Model

Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode Sr., Director, Amachi

MCP Match: Gretchen Duerst and Aron Miranda, Committed Partners for Youth, Oregon

10:00 am

Showcase of Compassion

Moderator: Gail Manza, Executive Director, MENTOR

Lowell Perry, Sr., CEO, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee

Blaine Bishop, former Tennessee Titans star, Mentor

Maggie Allen, Director of Special Projects and STARS Mentoring Project
Pima Prevention Partnership, Arizona

Mike Gottfried, Founder and CEO, Team Focus and College Football Game Analyst

Mitchell Lowery, Team Focus, Service Recipient

Terry Fisher, Mentoring Director, Transformation Cincinnati/ Northern Kentucky

De'Ron Smith, Transformation Cincinnati, Service Recipient

11:00 am

Public/Private Strategies to Promote Mentoring

Jay Winsten, Associate Dean, Harvard School of Public Health, and Director
Harvard Mentoring Project

Renata Cobbs-Fletcher, Vice President for Public Policy and Community Partnerships
Public/Private Ventures

Paul Fleischmann, President, National Network of Youth Ministries

PSA: Mentoring Children of Prisoners

MCP Match: Crystal White and Shaderra Wallace, New York City Mission Society

11:30 am

Call to Action

Marguerite Kondracke, President and CEO, America's Promise Alliance

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH 2008

COMPASSION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

The 7th Annual National Mentoring Month (NMM) campaign is underway this month, with broad support from President George W. Bush, governors, mayors, businesses, nonprofit groups, and celebrities across the country. The campaign's goal is to recruit volunteer mentors to help young people achieve their full potential. The campaign's theme is "Share What You Know. Mentor a Child." The lead spokespersons for this year's campaign are General Colin L. Powell, music icon Quincy Jones, and Grammy Award-winning recording artist Usher.

National Mentoring Month is spearheaded by the Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, and the Corporation for National and Community Service, in collaboration with the America's Promise Alliance, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and other nonprofit groups. Sponsors include MetLife Foundation, The Curtis L. Carlson Family Foundation, and The MCJ Foundation. Media partners include: ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC; Comcast; National Association of Broadcasters; Time Warner; and Viacom.

In communities across the country, designated nonprofit and governmental agencies are responsible for coordinating local campaign activities, including media outreach and volunteer recruitment. These local lead partners include state and local affiliates of MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, Corporation

for National and Community Service, Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network, America's Promise Alliance, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Communities in Schools, and United Way of America.

The campaign features the launch of the ReelPeople Project. Local lead partners were invited to nominate mentor/mentee pairs as candidates for starring roles in national TV PSAs. The two pairs chosen for this year's PSAs were nominated by: Bay Area Mentoring (San Francisco) on behalf of Friends for Youth; and, the Governor's Commission on Community Service in Denver, Colorado on behalf of Denver Kids, Inc., a member program of the Youth Mentoring Collaborative.

As a highlight of the campaign, Thank Your Mentor Day™ will be celebrated on Thursday, January 24. On that day, many Americans will reach out to thank or honor those individuals who encouraged and guided them, and had a lasting impact on their lives. Thank Your Mentor Day™ promotes Four Ways to Honor Your Mentor: 1) contact your mentor directly to express your appreciation; 2) pass it on by becoming a mentor to a young person in your community; 3) make a financial contribution to a local mentoring program; and, 4) write a tribute to your mentor for posting on the campaign's Web site.

FBCI SNAPSHOTS: PUBLIC/PRIVATE EFFORTS TO INCREASE MENTORING

COMPASSION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

Amachi Program

Amachi, a program of Public/Private Ventures (P/PV), is a unique partnership of secular and faith-based organizations working together to provide mentoring to children of incarcerated parents. Faith institutions work with human service providers and public agencies (particularly justice institutions) to identify children of prisoners and match them with caring adults.

The model was created in September 2000 when P/PV partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters and The University of Pennsylvania to organize Amachi, which was designed to be easily replicated. The model is based on a research-proven model of intervention, Big Brothers Big Sisters one-to-one community based mentoring, where ...

One adult spends a minimum of one hour once a week for at least one year with a child of an incarcerated parent.

The program took the name Amachi, a Nigerian Ibo word that means "who knows but what God has brought us through this child." The Amachi program developed a successful way to get mentors from local congregations, organizations, and businesses. It also developed a unique way to recruit children through their incarcerated parents by building strong relationships with correctional institutions. Within a matter of months, 42 local congregations, with nearly 500 volunteers agreed to partner with Amachi. Soon thereafter, Philadelphia's correctional institutions became partners and the names of 2000 children were acquired from 22 meetings with inmates at all five correctional institutions in the city. Within a few months more than 250 of these children were matched with volunteers from the local congregations. Because of his strong interest in this work, President Bush visited Philadelphia and the program on July 4, 2001. By the end of 2001, the program had served more than 500 children and the word of its success spread throughout the nation. The President made a return visit in December 2002, this time to meet with a group of

volunteers and children who had been matched for one year or more. Within months of this visit, the President proposed and Congress established a mentoring children of prisoners program based largely on the Amachi Model.

Consequently, Amachi shifted its focus from running the model program to providing training and technical assistance to the newly established programs nationwide. The Amachi Training Institute (ATI) was launched in December 2003. The two-day Institute provides hands on training on how to organize and run a mentoring children of prisoner program. The ATI is followed by on-site technical assistance especially focusing on partnering with correctional institutions to gain access to parents who can refer their children. The technical assistance also helps operating agencies develop partnerships with local congregations, businesses, universities and social service entities to find mentors. Since 2003, the ATI has trained more than 2100 people representing 273 programs and their partners. These programs have served more than 100,000 children in 210 cities and 48 states.

America's Promise Alliance

Building on the legacy of our founder, General Colin Powell, we are the leader in forging a strong and effective partnership alliance committed to seeing that children experience the fundamental resources they need to succeed – the Five Promises - at home, in school and out in the community. Together, we know that the success of our children is grounded in having caring adults in their lives, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education and opportunities to help others. We are the largest alliance of corporations, nonprofit organizations, foundations, policymakers, advocacy and faith groups committed to harnessing the collective strengths of a partner network. We are proof that the power of the alliance is greater than the sum of its separate parts.

We are an alliance born of the recognition that when too many of our children are at risk, we are a nation at risk. With less than one third of America's young people receiving enough of the essential resources they need for success, we're witnessing greater risk of substance abuse, crime and school drop outs. We can't afford this loss of human potential and, therefore, reversing this tide must be a national priority. We've seen first hand that if children receive at least four of the Five Promises, their chances for success dramatically increase and damaging racial and economic gaps are greatly reduced and, in some cases, nearly eliminated.

Through increasing awareness, advocating for children and engaging in a few powerful initiatives, we use the strength of our partnerships to more effectively and strategically bring the power of the Five Promises to America's children – enabling them to have the resources they need to succeed in life, lead happier, healthier and productive lives, and build a stronger society.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America

Big Brothers Big Sisters, BigBrothersBigSisters.org, is the largest most effective youth mentoring organization in the United States. With more than 400 affiliates across all 50 states, we serve more than 260,000 children in 5,000 communities - more than twice the number served five years ago. Independent research shows that its model of professionally supported one-to-one relationships between young people and their Big Brothers and Big Sisters has a measurable, positive impact. Children in the program are more likely to achieve in school, and less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as using alcohol and illegal drugs, and be involved in violence. Big Brothers Big Sisters works with policymakers and community leaders across the country to expand access to mentoring for children in need. The organization is currently focused on recruiting Big Brothers, especially African Americans and Hispanics and raising investment funds for expansion.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of children in need and to assist them in achieving their highest potential by facilitating a professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationship with a committed volunteer. These friendships reflect a measurable impact where children are proven to do better in school, more likely to avoid drugs and violence. The volunteers and children share in everyday activities like working on school assignments, going to the park, or participating in community service projects... and this relationship causes children to realize a brighter future for themselves and their community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee's Amachi program serving children of prisoners was started in 2004. The Amachi program lead by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee is recognized as one of the most successful Amachi programs in the nation. BBBSMT served 427 children in 2006 and served 30% more children of incarcerated parents during 2007, ending the year serving over 555 children. These children with incarcerated parents are matched with mentors who can help show them a new, brighter future that does not include prison bars. Many of the volunteer mentors serving these children most in need are from partnering faith-based organizations across Middle Tennessee.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee leads Middle Tennessee in youth mentoring - serving 1,863 children in 2007 – a 23% increase over the previous year serving 1,517 children in 2006. Over 200 Middle Tennessee children are ready to be matched right now with a mentor – 2/3 of these children are boys. Of these boys, over 2/3 are African American. The organization was nationally recognized by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (423 member federation) with CEO of the Year and Board of the Year and was Finalist - Agency of the Year.

Committed Partners for Youth

Committed Partners for Youth offers highly successful community and school based one-on-one mentoring programs, connecting over 800 at-risk youth with caring adult mentors over the past 15 years. Since 1991 CPY has empirically demonstrated its ability to improve the well being of highly vulnerable youth and families in Lane County, Oregon, through a variety of programs. Due to our success and innovation, CPY is recognized not just as the largest and most effective mentor program in the County, but also as a national leader in best practices mentoring.

CPY's Together Building Resiliency, Understanding, and Empowerment (TRUE) Friends Project is a multi-systemic mentoring intervention aimed at improving the well being of youth between the ages of 6 and 17 whose parents are incarcerated within the criminal justice system. The program aims to enhance each child's academic performance, relationship with family members and self-worth, and to intervene in the cycle of delinquent behavior. Utilizing a year-long intervention pairing a youth with an adult mentor in a one-on-one relationship, TRUE Friends is designed to build a strong, familiar sense of community and orient youth towards his/her future goals. Through one-on-one activities chosen according to the mentor/youth pair's strengths and interests, as well as monthly group activities sponsored and organized by Committed Partners for Youth, pairs explore the realm of possibilities ranging from rock-climbing, bowling, biking, attending local theatres, participating in dance and art classes, job shadowing, helping with homework, visiting the library, going to UO sports games, sharing a meal, and community service projects. Additionally, Committed Partners for Youth offers on-going support through monthly mentor support meetings and auxiliary training, monthly staff check-in calls and on-call support availability from staff. The youth's family is also included in support activities with opportunities to participate in facilitated TRUE Friends family dinners,

skill-building activities, home visits, and assistance navigating the criminal justice system to improve communication with the incarcerated parent. Many relationships continue beyond the CPY-facilitated first year. In these situations, continuing support services are provided as necessary.

Harvard Mentoring Project

In 1997, the Center for Health Communication of the Harvard School of Public Health launched a national media campaign to promote the growth of mentoring with the goal of linking large numbers of young people with adult mentors. All the major broadcast television networks have participated, along with 45 national and regional cable networks and leading Hollywood studios. For over a decade, the Center's Harvard Mentoring Project has served as the media arm of the national mentoring movement.

Harvard undertook this initiative because studies have shown that mentoring is a highly effective strategy for preventing several key problems that young people face, including school violence, drug abuse, and school drop out. Mentoring provides information, opportunities, nurturance, and support. By successfully navigating a relationship with a mentor, a young person develops a shared sense of caring, respect, trust, and, consequently, the belief that "I can." This positive attitude, or self-efficacy, makes a fundamental difference when it is applied to specific goals (such as school or career) or to the young person's emotional development.

The Campaign has used a three-pronged communication strategy consisting of advertising, entertainment programming, and news. The Harvard Mentoring Project has encouraged Hollywood producers and writers to depict mentoring relationships in prime-time episodes to reinforce the impact of the PSAs. Entertainment not only mirrors social reality, but also helps shape it by depicting what constitutes popular opinion, by influencing people's perceptions of the roles and behaviors that are appropriate to members of a cul-

ture, and by modeling specific behaviors. Story lines dealing with mentoring have appeared in numerous prime-time shows

As an outgrowth of the media campaign, the Harvard Mentoring Project joined together with MENTOR/ National Mentoring Partnership to establish the month of January as National Mentoring Month - an annual, concentrated burst of national and local media attention, combined with White House and Congressional involvement and extensive community outreach. National Mentoring Month provides an annual "shot in the arm" for the mentoring movement.

MENTOR

For nearly two decades, MENTOR works to expand the world of quality mentoring. MENTOR believes that, with the help and guidance of an adult mentor, each child can unlock his or her potential. MENTOR is the nation's leading advocate and expert resource for mentoring, delivering the research, policy recommendations, advocacy, and practical performance tools that facilitate expansion of mentoring initiatives. In cooperation with a strong national network of *Mentoring Partnerships* throughout the country and with more than 4,100 mentoring programs nationwide, MENTOR helps to connect young Americans who want and need caring adults in their lives with the power of mentoring.

We seek to leverage resources and provide the tools that local mentoring programs need to operate high-quality mentoring programs, build greater awareness of the need for mentors, and raise the profile of mentoring among corporate leaders, foundation executives, policymakers, and researchers. As such, the ultimate beneficiaries of our work are the millions of young people who are currently benefiting from the guidance of caring adult mentors.

Prominent resources include: The National Agenda for Action, an actionable plan to overcome impediments to growth and close the mentoring gap; www.mentoring.org, the nation's most comprehensive

source for mentoring resources; The Elements of Effective Practice, research-based and field-tested guidelines on running safe and effective mentoring programs; MentorPRO, a state-of-the-art online data tracking and analysis tool that gives mentoring programs standardized measures and a common system for collecting, tracking, and analyzing mentoring data; and The Research in Action Series, which translates research into practical strategies for mentoring practitioners.

National Network of Youth Ministries

The National Network of Youth Ministries was founded in 1981 in response to the need to reach every teenager with the message of Christ. Leaders of youth organizations and church denominations agreed that there was no way to achieve this goal without greater cooperation and better use of resources.

Today, the National Network serves as a neutral umbrella for over 100 national ministries, which includes 250,000 youth workers, 100,000 churches and 3,000,000 youth. Together, they are seeking to minister to every secondary school and unite their efforts in other ways in order to accomplish together what no one group could accomplish alone.

The Network's unique role is "Reaching Youth *Together*." As a result, youth workers in every state, 50 denominations, 1,000 communities and 70 nations are building a coalition that will represent the good news of God's love to every student, every school, and every community.

New York City Mission Society

Founded in 1812, New York City Mission Society is the oldest continuously operating social service organization in New York. As we enter our third century of service Mission Society is committed to providing high-quality programs that enable the city's most vulnerable children and families to learn, achieve and succeed.

Children constitute the majority of our clients, although we serve people of all ages. Mission Society is committed to increase the self-sufficiency of children and families challenged by poverty through programs, services, and events that focus on education, personal growth and development, prevention, and arts and recreation. Our programs currently serve over 6,800 individuals in need.

Our mission is to provide a warm and loving environment to children and families who are experience difficult circumstances, often due to poverty. We do this by providing programs and activities through the following service strategies: education, personal growth and development, prevention and arts and recreation.

STARS Mentoring Project, Pima Prevention Partnership

The STARS Mentoring Project is a collaboration of community agencies that have come together for the purpose of matching recruited mentors with children of incarcerated parents. The collaboration consists of The Partnership which acts as the coordinating agency, Tucson Big Brothers and Big Sisters, which acts as the volunteer screener and match case manager, Angel Tree Mentoring, which recruits mentors and mentees from the faith community, the KARE Family Center, which provides support services to the children and their families, and the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, who provides statewide support for this issue. In addition, the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families sponsors a statewide annual conference on issues facing children of prisoners. In October 2007, the 4th annual conference attracted over 400 attendees.

The STARS Mentoring Project began in 2003 with funding from the ACF-Mentoring Children of Prisoners Grantee program. The STARS Project currently collaborates with Big Brothers Big Sisters organizations and faith-based organizations across four counties in Arizona including Pima County (Tucson), Maricopa County (Phoenix), Yavapai County

(Prescott) and Coconino County (Flagstaff). At the end of the 2006/2007 fiscal year the STARS Mentoring project had provided mentors to over 500 children of prisoners across Arizona.

In 2007, The Partnership was named one of 13 agencies selected to participate in the National Bill of Rights project. This project expanded the visibility of issues for children of incarcerated parents and expanded the collaboration network for the STARS Mentoring Program to over 50 agencies across the state. The year long project resulted in the publication of research findings in a document entitled: Arizona Children of Incarcerated Parents- Bill of Rights Project that can be downloaded at www.thepartnership.us.

Public/Private Ventures

Public/Private Ventures is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the effectiveness of social policies, programs and community initiatives, especially as they affect youth and young adults. In carrying out this mission, P/PV works with philanthropies, the public and business sectors, and nonprofit organizations.

P/PV's staff is composed of policy leaders in various fields; evaluators and researchers in disciplines ranging from economics to ethnography; and experienced practitioners from the nonprofit, public, business and philanthropic sectors. P/PV's work addresses a wide range of critical social issues, and involves a varied group of sectors and institutions. This diversity provides us with the perspective and experience to assist policymakers, funders and communities in setting priorities and identifying realistic opportunities for advancing promising or proven policies and practices.

Transformation Cincinnati/ Northern Kentucky

Transformation is a registered 501C-3 non-profit organization that facilitates the uniting of the Church of Cincinnati for the purpose of prayer, plans, and actions. We believe strongly that when the Church serves together, a sustained unity will occur. One of

the initiatives that we feel the Church needs to support is to serve people in transition. Ex-offenders who struggle with reentry back into society are people who are in transition, and they need help from the Church in many ways, including workforce training, job connections, mentoring, and other service and support connections. We believe the Church of Cincinnati is poised and ready to take on this crucial role in support of these people in transition.

Transformation has spent over 7 years developing relationships with pastors and ministry leaders in the city. This strong foundation of relationships has and will enable the formation of many volunteer serving roles and the mobilization of a large number of people who have a heart to serve people in need. In addition to the volunteer mobilization benefits, we can leverage those relationships to provide additional resources for people in transition that will fill gaps in resources and services available. An example of this is a ministry business we own to provide cars to people in transition who are in need of transportation. We also have an established a network of relief resources, such as food, clothing, and furniture that help with needs of clients who are in transition.

Transformation is thankful that we can be a blessing to people who are in transition from incarceration back into the community through providing mentoring services. We see the value of our mentoring activities when people we serve are transformed by the renewing of their minds, thereby moving into a more abundant life in their transition. We are driven by the vision of an army of mentors that will help people transition to be contributing members of society.

Team Focus

Team Focus, Inc., is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, 501(c)(3) foundation devoted to improving the lives of young men without fathers in their lives. A boy growing up without a father figure in his home cries out for affirmation. A father affirms a child -- builds

character -- gives him self-esteem, worth and confidence. Through summer camp programs and ongoing, year-round mentoring and educational programs, Team Focus strives to provide these young men with role models and positive influences that change their lives for the better, encourage them to attend college, and help them to achieve victories in their lives. Team Focus provides young men ages 10 to 18 with leadership skills, guidance, spiritual and moral values, and a continuing relationship with a carefully selected adult mentor. Team Focus strives to provide potential leaders of tomorrow with a positive influence and lessons that will benefit them throughout their life.

Team Focus offers a model summer camp training program (Camp Focus) uniquely designed to: Provide guidance and support to young men who do not have a father in their home; Encourage young men in academics, athletics, social skills, and moral and spiritual values; Develop leadership skills and teamwork; Motivate boys to strive for higher positive goals and achieve victories; Create a safe environment for young men to grow in society; and Build support through work with families, teachers, counselors, and positive role models.

At Team Focus, boys are taught educational and social skills, and motivated and counseled. Guest speakers make an influence in campers' lives through classroom sessions, lectures, and talks. Campers are educated on manners, appropriate dress, telephone etiquette, and how to be a better student. When campers are not in lectures or motivational talks, they are learning sports and outdoor activities. They learn the meaning of teamwork in every sense of the word. Importantly, Team Focus programs are made available at no cost to participating youths and families.

FEDERAL EFFORTS TO INCREASE MENTORING

COMPASSION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

Federal Mentoring Council

In May of 2006, the Federal Mentoring Council was established to increase collaboration among federal agencies and develop policies to enhance mentoring. The Council, chaired by David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, includes the Departments of Defense, Education, Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and Housing and Urban Development. Each of the agencies plays a vital role in the success of the programs the council participates in and is committed to bringing a unique set of resources in its support of the mission.

Through its combined expertise, resources, and influence, the Council develops and oversees the implementation of combined federal effort to ensure that America's youth have the support and guidance of a caring adult to make a successful transition into adulthood. The Council is focused on identifying key ways in which existing federal mentoring programs working together can recruit, train and retain three million new mentors by 2010.

Helping America's Youth

A Commitment To Helping America's Youth

In his 2005 State of the Union Address, President Bush announced a broad initiative to engage all Americans in helping young people become healthy adults. The President asked Mrs. Laura Bush to lead this important effort, which became known as the *Helping America's Youth* initiative. *Helping America's Youth* is a nationwide effort to raise awareness about the challenges facing our youth, particularly at-risk boys, and to motivate caring adults to connect with youth in three key areas: family, school, and community.

President and Mrs. Bush believe parents and family are the first and most important influence in every child's life, providing a foundation of love and support. By becoming actively involved in the lives of young people in their community, grandparents, teachers,

mentors, clergy members, neighbors, coaches, and other community members can support parents and help youth contribute to their communities and make better choices that lead to healthier, more successful lives. Research has shown that supportive relationships are crucial to an adolescent's well-being. Boys, in particular, need caring adults in their lives because they are at greater risk than girls for illiteracy, developing learning disabilities, dropping out of school, violence, juvenile arrest and early death caused by violent behavior. Visit www.helpingamericasyouth.gov for more information.

The Community Guide to Helping America's Youth

Caring adults are most effective when they are part of a community effort. Community partnerships bring together individuals such as teachers, mentors, parents, clergy members, police officers, social service providers and others that can have a positive impact on a child's life. Research has shown that youth are less likely to engage in risky behaviors when they are connected to parents, family, school, community, and places of worship.

The *Community Guide to Helping America's Youth* assists caring adults in connecting with youth in their families, schools and communities. It encourages Americans to make an even bigger difference by forming partnerships to implement programs that have been proven to help youth. It also reflects the most up-to-date research on youth development and effective programs. The *Community Guide* includes:

- Ideas of how individuals can "Get Connected" with youth in families, schools and communities.
- A Community Assessment Guide that offers partnerships a step-by-step approach for learning more about their community, including what type of youth-related problems occur and where, who is most affected by those problems, and what local resources and assets the community can use to address those problems.

- A Community Resource Inventory which localities can use to identify and track partners and programs that are already at work in their neighborhood.
- A searchable Program Tool that provides information about promising and proven interventions to prevent adolescent risky behaviors and promote positive youth development.

The *Community Guide* was developed by a coalition of experts from the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Education, Agriculture, Labor, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development; the Office of National Drug Control Policy; and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The *Community Guide* is available at www.helpingamericasyouth.gov.

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

Mentoring is a central focus area for CNCS and a key element of the agency's Strategic Plan. In May 2006, CNCS and MENTOR announced the start of a targeted campaign that aims to meet critical needs in local communities through services including mentoring. The Strategic Plan for FY 2006 – 2010 includes the aggressive goal of increasing mentoring services to 3 million children and youth. In addition, each of the Corporation's main programs—Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America – have made mentoring and working with youth from disadvantaged circumstances a top priority. For more information on the available programs, training and technical assistance for mentoring, visit Corporation for National and Community Service please visit www.nationalservice.gov.

AmeriCorps

The AmeriCorps program includes the National Civilian Community Corps, State and National, and VISTA, which address critical needs in communities across America. AmeriCorps programs aim to serve disadvantaged youth, fight illiteracy, clean up the en-

vironment, teach computer skills, respond to disasters and building affordable housing. Each year, over 70,000 AmeriCorps members volunteer to improve education, public safety, the environment, and meet other critical community needs. For additional information on AmeriCorps programs and how to become an AmeriCorps member, please visit www.americorps.gov/.

Learn and Serve America

Learn and Serve America supports service-learning activities for children aging from kindergarten through college in schools, higher education institutions, and community organizations. As an example, the National Learn and Serve Challenge incorporates mentoring with service-learning activities, resulting in a colleges and universities getting involved with their local community by mentoring at-risk youth facing the challenges of gang involvement, drug abuse, family violence, and other offenses. For more information on Learn and Serve America programs, please visit www.learnandserve.gov/.

Senior Corps

Senior Corps is a network of programs that includes Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program that uses the experiences and skills of volunteers who are 55 or older to address various community needs. In particular, the Foster Grandparent program provides mentoring and other support to disadvantaged and disabled youth. Specifically, Foster Grandparents are striving to make emotional connections with this youth population and have positive outcomes from mentoring troubled teenagers and young mothers. For more information on Senior Corps, please visit their website at www.seniorcorps.gov/.

U.S. Agency for International Development

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50

years. These programs reach some of the world's most vulnerable children and youth with needed support and assistance.

Mentoring in Education:

Around the world, mentors play an important role in helping children and youth face the daily challenges of health needs and poverty that can make getting an education a struggle. The Africa Education Initiative (AEI), announced by President Bush in June 2002, increases access to quality basic educational opportunities in Africa by improving primary education through the provision of training to over 900,000 teachers, 15 million textbooks, support for community involvement, and scholarships to girls. The Ambassadors' Girls Scholarship Program, one of the major components of AEI, is working to provide 550,000 scholarships by 2010 to African girls at the primary and secondary levels. Significantly, scholarship recipients benefit from mentoring activities from community members that promote self-development and provide positive role models.

Winrock International is one of USAID's prime partners on AEI. Importantly, Winrock works with local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in up to 15 African countries to provide vulnerable girls with support, including tuition, books, uniforms and other essentials needed to ensure continued access to education. Winrock partners with these community-based organizations in the actual implementation of the scholarship programs and in providing 75 percent of these girls with mentoring and HIV/AIDS information. The mentoring activities provided through this program supplement the girls' education and motivate the girls to stay in school, succeed at their work and deal with the daily challenges of life. The local community leaders play a key role in selecting scholarship recipients and in mentoring the girls. These girls will grow into educated members of their societies and play positive roles in the education, political and economic sectors of their countries.

In an example from Macedonia, a USAID-funded education program provides Roma teens with financial assistance and school-based mentoring. This one-on-one mentoring on a daily basis has worked to boost their self-confidence and bring out their natural academic abilities so that they can excel at their schoolwork and pursue fulfilling careers.

Mentoring in Employment:

In many parts of the world, youth may need assistance in developing job skills and finding employment. Mentors can play a key role in helping youth gain and keep their jobs. For example, the USAID Mission in Guatemala partnered with Creative Associates to produce an innovative crime-prevention television show in Guatemala. The show paired youths making their journey out of the gang world with Guatemalan business mentors. The challenge was for these former gang members to launch two small businesses in just 14 days. The project helped these youth with the difficulties of building a productive life in the face of the numerous social and employment barriers that exist for gang members when they attempt to leave the gang. The mentors and support that this program provided help these at-risk youth get not just a job, but start a new life.

A USAID-funded program in Liberia, implemented by Youth Action International, seeks to mentor, motivate and empower youth in a post-conflict context of poor economic conditions and limited resources. In Brazil, USAID has teamed with international partners and community-based organizations to provide youth with the professional training and skills they need to find gainful employment.

For more information, please visit http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/fbci/.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognizes the important role that faith-based and community organizations play in helping us to better serve

those in need. Through grant programs and other opportunities, USDA welcomes faith-based and community groups as important partners in our rural development, international food aid, and domestic food and nutrition programs.

Several of USDA's domestic food and nutrition programs benefit children in need. Studies show that proper nutrition is a critical part of the learning and development process. Faith-based and community organizations offering mentoring services to children can incorporate nutritious food into their programs, providing the necessary tools for children to learn, grow, and play.

The following are just a few of the FNS programs aimed at providing food and nutrition to children:

- Through the Child and Adult Care Food Program, nutritious meals and snacks are served to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers.
- The Summer Food Service Program ensures that children in low-income areas continue to have access to nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast.
- The National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to more than 26 million children each school day. In addition, the Afterschool Snack Program, run through the National School Lunch Program, reimburses organizations for snacks served to children in afterschool educational and enrichment programs.
- The Food Stamp Program is the cornerstone of Federal nutrition assistance programs and provides crucial support to working poor and needy households.

To learn more about FNS programs that benefit children in need, please visit www.fns.usda.gov/fns/fbco/children.htm. And if you would like to learn more on how faith-based and community organizations can partner with USDA, please visit www.usda.gov/fbci/.

For more information on how faith-based and community organizations can partner on USDA programs, please visit www.usda.gov/fbci/.

U.S. Department of Commerce

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce, promotes the progress of science and the useful arts by securing patents for inventors. The USPTO believes in inspiring creativity in youth and supports educational programs that encourage future generations of inventors.

Camp Invention

Camp Invention, cosponsored by the USPTO and the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF), is a nationwide educational outreach program that gives children entering grades one through six an alternative to traditional classroom experiences. The weeklong summer day camp builds on a child's innate curiosity and intuition about the way things work. Emphasis is placed on the creative process that leads to problem solving, discovery, and invention. In sessions such as "I Can Invent," campers take apart old appliances and use the parts to create their own inventions. Launched nationally in 1990, local schools host Camp Invention, and the hands-on activities are led by local teachers to ensure a safe learning environment.

Club Invention

Club Invention, also cosponsored by the USPTO and the NIHF, is an exciting after-school program in which children in grades one through six learn through fun, hands-on experiences and discovery. Children are

immersed in activity-oriented adventures that enhance their understanding of science, mathematics, history, and the arts. Launched nationally in 2003, the Club Invention program is available through participating local schools and community centers.

The National Inventors Hall of Fame was started in 1973 by the USPTO to recognize the men and women whose life's work has truly changed the world. The USPTO is a close working partner with the National Inventors Hall of Fame, sponsoring events, programs, and activities recognize inventors and inspire students to create and respect intellectual property.

For more information on the Camp Invention or Club Invention programs, visit www.invent.org, or call 800-968-4332.

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools – Mentoring Program
Competitive awards are made to school districts, nonprofit faith-based and community organizations, and partnerships between the two, to promote school-based mentoring programs for children with greatest need. Programs serve children in grades 4 – 8 that reside in rural or high crime areas or troubled environments, or who attend schools with violence problems.

Projects are designed to achieve one or more of the following goals: (1) assist children in receiving support and guidance from a mentor; (2) improve the academic performance of the children; (3) improve interpersonal relationships between the children and their peers, teachers, other adults, and family members; (4) reduce the dropout rate of the children; and (5) reduce the children's juvenile delinquency and involvement in gangs.

Applicants receiving awards have developed projects that link children with mentors who will receive ongoing training and support in mentoring, and have been screened using appropriate background checks.

For more information, please visit www.ed.gov/programs/dvpm/mentoring/index.html.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. Each year, HHS administers more grant dollars than all other federal agencies combined—distributing 60% of all federal dollars awarded. With programs covering a wide spectrum of activities, there are many opportunities for faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) to partner with HHS.

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)

Operating within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at HHS, FYSB's core mission is Positive Youth Development. This approach suggests that giving young people positive opportunities and helping them reach their full potential is the best way to prevent them from engaging in risky behaviors. When young people have the chance to exercise leadership, build skills, and get involved, they gain self-confidence, trust, and practical knowledge—qualities that help them grow into healthy, happy, self-sufficient adults.

Mentoring Children of Prisoners (MCP)

MCP, a program within FYSB, awards competitive grants to eligible organizations serving a geographic region with substantial numbers of children with incarcerated parents. These grants support the establishment and operation of mentoring programs for this specific population of at-risk youth. Since the program's inception in 2003, approximately \$190 million has been awarded to 320 grantees. To date, these grantees have matched over 70,000 children with mentors committed to serving, encouraging, and positively impacting these at-risk youth nationwide.

Mentoring Children of Prisoners Voucher Demonstration

In November 2007, FYSB announced a new cooperative agreement with the national mentoring partner-

ship MENTOR. The grant will allow MENTOR to recruit mentoring programs meeting quality standards that are located in the communities where families/caregivers and children of prisoners reside. MENTOR will compile a nationwide list of these agencies and enable eligible families to select a program in their area that best meets their needs.

Vouchers will be provided to the families of children of prisoners identified by MENTOR to redeem for services at any participating agency. The vouchers will allow families to choose from a range of mentoring programs that have met quality standards, and enable prisoners' families from a variety of communities and demographics to select mentoring programs that are geographically close and connected to their culture.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

Each year, thousands of U.S. youth run away from home, are asked to leave their homes, or become homeless. FYSB funds organizations and shelters that serve and protect these young people.

The Basic Center Program establishes or strengthens locally-controlled, community and faith-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. Centers provide youth with temporary shelter, food, clothing, and referrals for health care. The grants may also be used to provide counseling, outreach activities, and after-care services for youth once they leave the shelter.

The Transitional Living Program provides stable, safe living accommodations, basic life-skills, career counseling, educational training, and physical and mental health support services to youth ages 16 through 21 who are homeless for a continuous period, generally not exceeding 18 months. Minors may remain in the program for an additional 180 days or until their 18th birthday, whichever comes first.

The Street Outreach Program provides educational and preventive services to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been subject to, or are at risk of,

sexual exploitation or abuse. The program establishes and builds relationships between street youth and program outreach staff to help youths find safe and appropriate alternative living arrangement. Support services include treatment, counseling, information and referral services, individual assessment, crisis intervention, and follow up support.

For more information please visit: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb>.

U.S. Department of Justice

The U.S. Department of Justice considers mentoring a key component of many of its programs, especially in the positive youth development area, and both directly funds and monitors successful mentoring efforts across the country.

Gang Reduction Program. Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Gang Reduction Program seeks to reduce gang activity in four targeted neighborhoods (Richmond, VA, Milwaukee, WI, East Los Angeles, CA, and North Miami Beach, FL) by incorporating a broad spectrum of research-based interventions, including a large mentoring component, to address the range of personal, family, and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity. The program integrates local, state, and federal resources to incorporate state-of-the-art practices in prevention, intervention, and suppression to enhance pro-social influences in the community. Pilot communities identify and coordinate current resources, programs, and services that address known risk factors in the community and use grant funding to fill in the gaps. The program design includes a framework for coordinating a wide range of activities that have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing gang activity and delinquency.

The pilot in Richmond, VA, has been particularly successful. Under the leadership of the Office of the Virginia Attorney General, mentoring has been made

a cornerstone of the program. Mentoring relationships for at-risk youth have been established with the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Richmond, the Youth Life Foundation of Richmond (founded by Washington Redskin great Darryl Green), the Richmond Outreach Center, the Richmond Public Library, the City of Richmond, the Richmond Police Department, and Barefoot Ministries, Inc., among other groups.

Amachi Program, State of Texas. While not funded by the Department of Justice, the Texas Amachi program is a mentoring program that focuses on helping children of prisoners, who are much more likely to end up in jail than children with non-incarcerated parents. The initiative is a collaboration created by the Office of the Governor of Texas (Rick Perry), the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Workforce Commission, the One Star Foundation (the Texas Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Office), and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Texas. Amachi is a national mentoring program for children of prisoners. First started in Philadelphia in 2001, there are over 270 Amachi projects in 48 states. Texas, however, is the first state-wide model of Amachi and currently operates twelve sites throughout the state

For more information on these and other DOJ programs, visit www.usdoj.gov/fbci/.

U.S. Department of Labor

Mentoring has been incorporated into several programs at the U.S. Department of Labor – especially into prisoner reentry programs. Mentoring is a central tenet of both Ready4Work and the President's Reentry Initiative. In many cases the presence of a compassionate and supportive friend and role model can make all the difference in the life of an ex-prisoner and keep him/her from falling back into a life of crime and recidivism. Two documents are included in the roundtable materials. "Mentoring Ex-Prisoners in the Ready4Work Initiative" outlines the mentoring parameters and results within the Ready4Work program. "Mentoring Ex-Prisoners, A Guide for Reentry Programs" is a manual for faith-based and community organizations looking to establish or bolster their mentoring program.

For more information, please visit www.dol.gov/cfbci.

BIOGRAPHIES

COMPASSION IN ACTION ROUNDTABLE

■ MAGGIE ALLEN

Director of Special Projects and STARS Mentoring Project

Pima Prevention Partnerships

Margaret (Maggie) Allen, PhD is the Director of Special Projects for the Pima Prevention Partnership where she is the Director of the STARS Mentoring Project. Dr. Allen has over 20 years of experience in the human services field including the areas of child welfare, child protection, criminal justice, and court administration. Dr. Allen has served in adjunct faculty positions at The University of Phoenix, Pima Community College, and Northern Arizona University. Also, Dr. Allen provides training and consulting services to federal/tribal governmental organizations and faith based programs.

■ BLAINE BISHOP

Featured Mentor

Former Tennessee Titans star

Blaine Bishop, a native of Indianapolis, Indiana is a former National Football League (NFL) defensive back. Bishop went to Cathedral High School where he excelled in both athletics and academics. His hard work and perseverance awarded him a full athletic scholarship to Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Upon graduation, Bishop was drafted in the 8th round by the Houston Oilers in 1993 as the 214th overall pick.

Bishop had a successful 10- year career while playing in the NFL. He was recognized as one of the NFL's premier hardest hitting safeties during his tenure with the Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans. Also, his success and hard work in the NFL earned him 4 Pro Bowl selections.

Bishop demonstrates leadership both on and off the field. He was awarded Boys and Girls Club Alumni of the Year, inducted into Ball State University's Athletics

Hall of Fame, and recipient of the G.O.L.D. Award, to name a few. Bishop has been a supporter of Big Brothers Big Sisters since the age of 8. While growing up in Indiana, he was a Little Brother. His Big provided a positive father figure and male role model in his life. While Bishop experienced the impact of having a mentor first hand, he continues to support youth mentoring and Big Brothers Big Sisters to date. Orchestrating a "Bigs for a Day" event with the Tennessee Titans is just one example of the many ways he has positively impacted children's lives.

Bishop currently resides in Alpharetta, Georgia with his wife and six-year old son. He sits on the Board of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Middle Tennessee chapter.

■ RENATA COBBS-FLETCHER

Vice President for Public Policy and Community Partnerships

Public/Private Ventures

Renata Cobbs Fletcher is vice president for Public Policy and Community Partnerships (PPCP) at Public/Private Ventures (P/PV). In this capacity, Renata is responsible for conceiving and implementing initiatives that positively impact disenfranchised communities, including prisoner reentry, employment, education and violence reduction initiatives. Renata works closely with local, state and federal policymakers to develop these projects and to see that their lessons are reflected in future policies and programs.

Renata's major focus over the last four years has been Ready4Work (R4W). Results of the demonstration project have shown highly encouraging outcomes for educational attainment, employment, and job retention, with recidivism rates more than 50 percent lower than the Bureau of Justice's national average. Renata was hired by P/PV in 2003 as a senior program officer for PPCP. Promoted to senior project manager, she served as principal writer on many projects, including

Compassion at Work, a report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (DOLCFBCI). A distillation of the work of DOLCFBCI and its grantees from 2002 through 2005, this report was submitted by Labor Secretary Elaine Chao to President George Bush, and was subsequently published in 2005. Immediately prior to her appointment as vice president, Renata served as operations director for PPCP.

Renata's work with and on behalf of youth and young adults is longstanding. Prior to joining P/PV, Renata was executive director of Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP), a Connecticut-based after-school and summer program that trains and employs high school and college students to work with children from the state's highest poverty communities, providing academic, social and mentoring services. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in English and Theatre from Spelman College, Renata studied and worked in theatre and film, driven primarily by the notion that the arts can serve as a powerful tool to foster awareness about social issues. As a literary agent for Rosenstone/Wender, Renata represented playwrights, screenwriters, composers, directors and choreographers in contract negotiations and production rights. Renata also worked as associate director of development for Crossroads Theatre Company, winner of the 1998 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

■ GRETCHEN DUERST

Featured Mentor

Committed Partners for Youth

Gretchen was born and raised in Oregon, growing up on both the coast and in the Cascade mountains. She ran cross-country, competed in swimming and was involved in civic clubs, including National Honor Society, the Ecology club and a pro-abstinence/teen pregnancy preventative program for middle school

youth. She obtained her BA at Oregon State University with a focus in writing and communication and then a Masters in Art in rhetoric and composition (non-fiction writing) also at Oregon State University. Gretchen began mentoring initially to further explore her interest in teaching and working with challenging populations. Mentoring enabled her to maximize her passion for working with people one-on-one, while also pursuing her personal interests, including hiking, being in nature, running, cooking, reading, bike-commuting, doing art crafts, rock climbing (in moderation), just sitting in the sand at the beach, swimming in lakes, kayaking, communicating, dancing, going to see live music, being busy, feeling successful & productive in my job, sustaining positive relationships, learning Spanish, seeing movies, and generally trying new activities.

Currently, Gretchen is the Program Coordinator for conferencing services through the University of Oregon. Gretchen readily recounts how the relationships she's formed with Aron, his family, other mentors, and Committed Partners for Youth, have enabled her realize that she has new aspirations for herself and her future career. Watching Aron open up over the past two years and get excited about new opportunities has inspired Gretchen to explore new directions like education or social work, where the energy she applies to a job will feel as effective & valuable as mentoring.

■ TERRY FISHER

Mentoring Director

Talbert House

Terry M. Fisher has a combined business and ministry career of over 30 years. Terry has worked in full time ministry for over 8 years. He is a pastor, and holds a ministry license with Living Leaf Community Church in Mason, Ohio.

Terry began working in ministry with The Firm Foundation, a registered non-profit construction company in a Chicago suburb that partnered with Wayside

Cross Ministries, a Christian drug/alcohol rehabilitation program. The purpose of the partnership was to provide a transitional support program for the men coming out of Wayside, which included teaching them a trade and holistically mentoring them back into society. This work led to a position with Vineyard Community Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Terry led community transformation efforts uniting other churches, government, and social service providers to work alongside small groups from the Vineyard church to serve under-resourced people in a focused geographic area. A ministry organization called Transformation Cincinnati then became the most effective connection with Talbert House, a large community service provider in Cincinnati. Talbert House contracted with Transformation Cincinnati to provide mentoring services in two grants, the second of which is the DOL Prisoner Reentry Initiative. Terry has directed the activities for mentoring with Transformation Cincinnati, under the grant leadership of Talbert House.

Terry has 23 years of experience in the graphic arts and printing industry. He held various positions for the Standard Register Company in Illinois, New York, and Ohio. Mr. Fisher had served in Sales, Sales Management, National Account Sales, Product Development, and Public Relations/Communications capacities.

■ PAUL FLEISCHMANN

President

National Network of Youth Ministries

Paul Fleischmann is the President of the National Network of Youth Ministries, serving in that capacity for over 25 years. Previously he worked directly with teenagers through Campus Crusade of Christ, directing their work in several cities. He earned his bachelor's degree from Seattle Pacific University and his Master of Divinity from Western Seminary.

He is one of the Founding Organizers of the annual *See You at the Pole* that involves 3 million students from

every state in praying for their schools. He is the North American representative and Chair of the World Evangelical Alliance Youth Commission. He is a frequent contributor to youth publications, and his book *Discipling the Young Person* won a Gold Medallion Award.

Under his leadership, the National Network coordinates the Campus Alliance, uniting youth leaders from 50 ministries who are seeking to ensure that at least one ministry is within the reach of every secondary school in America. He and his wife Toni have grown two sons and live in San Diego, California.

■ WILSON GOODE

Director

Amachi Program

Dr. Goode is director and organizer of the nationally acclaimed Amachi Program, a national faith-based mentoring model for children of incarcerated parents. Because of his innovative and ground-breaking work, in 2006 he received two prestigious awards: the Civic Ventures \$100,000 *Purpose Prize* and the Philadelphia Inquirer's *Citizen of the Year*. He is an ordained Baptist Minister with over 50 years service at the First Baptist Church of Paschall located in southwest Philadelphia.

Dr. Goode has served as an officer in the U.S. Army. He also led ground-breaking work in faith-based housing for low and moderate income persons. He was the first African American member and later chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. He again broke racial barriers with his appointment as Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia. He would follow that as the City's first African American Mayor for two terms. He subsequently spent 7 years as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education under the Clinton Administration. He left that position in 2000 to help organize the Amachi Program, which is now his ministry and life's work.

Dr. Goode has earned degrees from Morgan State University (BA), the University of Pennsylvania (MA), Eastern Baptist [now Palmer] Theological Seminary (D. Min.), and fourteen honorary doctorates. Dr. Goode is Chairman of the following boards: the Free Library of Philadelphia; the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation; and the Leadership Foundation of America. Dr. Goode is the author of two books, *In Goode Faith* and *Building From The Ground Up*. Dr. Goode and his wife of 47 years have one son, two daughters, and two granddaughters.

■ MIKE GOTTFRIED

*College Football Game Analyst/Founder
Team Focus*

In 2000, Mike founded *Team Focus*, a comprehensive community outreach program for boys. His vision and drive for the program is based on his life experiences. Gottfried states: "*Growing up without a father around and knowing what it feels like, I have a desire to provide a place for young men to come and be encouraged, motivated and challenged.*" The goal of Team Focus is to provide fatherless young men ages 10 to 18 with leadership skills, guidance, Godly values and a continual relationship with a mentor. Through teamwork with the families, teachers and counselors, Team Focus offers support in a relaxed, cost-free atmosphere.

Mike Gottfried, who spent 12 successful seasons as a college football coach is now one of television's most respected game analysts. Since 1990, he's served as an ESPN college football analyst for ESPN's *Saturday Primetime* telecasts. He also worked for the first half season of the *Thursday Night Game of the Week*, as well as the NFL Draft. Gottfried joined the network in 1990 and provided analysis on late afternoon CFA games for one season.

A sought after motivational speaker, Gottfried travels through out the United States speaking at colleges, high

schools and corporations. He also has spearheaded fund-raisers for charitable organizations in Alabama and Ohio. Gottfried graduated from Morehead State (KY) in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in education and in 1973 received his Masters Degree of Education.

■ MARGUERITE KONDRACKE

*President and CEO
America's Promise Alliance*

Since 2004, Marguerite W. Kondracke has served as President and CEO of the America's Promise Alliance. America's Promise was founded after the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in 1997 where Presidents Bush, Carter, Clinton and Ford, with Nancy Reagan representing President Reagan, challenged the country to make children and youth a national priority. Retired General Colin L. Powell is founding chairman, and its current chair is Alma J. Powell. Its mission is to help every child have a chance to be successful by mobilizing people from all sectors of American life to see that every child can realize "Five Promises": 1) caring adults; 2) safe places; 3) a healthy start; 4) an effective education; and 5) opportunities to help others.

During her 40-year career, Marguerite Kondracke has been both an entrepreneur and a public servant. In 1987, she founded Corporate Family Solutions with Lamar Alexander and Bob Keeshan, television's Captain Kangaroo, to provide more and better child care for working parents through employer sponsorship. It became the nation's largest provider of workplace childcare, and she took the company public in 1997 (NASDAQ: BFAM). Kondracke retired in 1999 as CEO of the Company, now called Bright Horizons Family Solutions, and continues on the board today. The company today is a \$1 billion enterprise employing over 20,000 people, serving over 600 corporate clients at over 700 child care centers in four countries. Bright Horizons has eight times been named one of Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For."

In addition to Bright Horizons, she is a member of the board of directors of Saks Fifth Avenue (NYSE: SKS). She is also a member of the Board at Duke University, LifePoint Hospitals and Malaria No More and serves on the advisory board of The Future of Children for Princeton University and Brookings Institution. Prior to founding the child care company, Mrs. Kondracke served in Tennessee state government where she developed and led Tennessee's four-year "Healthy Children Initiative." She later served in the cabinet of Governor Alexander as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Before joining America's Promise, she served as Special Assistant to U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander as well as Staff Director for the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Kondracke has received numerous awards and honors. In 2006, she was named a Purpose Prize Fellow, awarded by Civic Ventures to those who are over 60, yet still taking on society's biggest challenges. As a volunteer, Mrs. Kondracke served on the board of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) for ten years, including three years as chair. An undergraduate alumna of Duke University, she also holds a master's degree in psychology from Austin Peay State University. She has two sons and daughters-in-law, two stepdaughters, and enjoys golf, travel and hiking. She is married to award-winning journalist Morton Kondracke.

■ MITCHELL LOWERY

Featured Mentee

Team Focus

Mitchell Lowery was born in Hartford Connecticut on August 16th 1994. He was introduced into Team Focus in the summer of 2005. The first camp he attended was located on Howard University. Through Team Focus, Mitchell has visited Capitol Hill, an Orioles game, and the Secret Service training facility, and even met the First Lady of the United States in Mobile, Alabama.

Team Focus has given Mitchell the opportunity to compete in several events. He has won best camper of the week and best business interview. He is also a member of the D.C. council which represents the boys from this region.

He is currently an eighth grade student at Robert Goddard French Immersion School. He has been in the same class since kindergarten where all subjects (except English and the orchestra) are taught in French. He also plays viola in the advanced symphony orchestra at school and for the Prince George County Junior Youth Orchestra. He is in his second year of studying Russian. Though a little concerned about which high school he is going to attend, he is praying for the best. He has been on the Honor Roll every semester since started school and currently has a 3.63 GPA. His favorite subject is Geometry.

■ GAIL MANZA

Executive Director

MENTOR

Ms. Manza is the Executive Director of MENTOR, an organization which serves as an advocate for the expansion of mentoring and a resource for mentors and mentoring initiatives nationwide. Ms. Manza, who is a social worker, has over twenty years experience in not-for-profit management and was formerly a Senior Vice President at United Way of America, where she simultaneously served as Managing Director of the Mobilization for America's Children – a national initiative aimed at advancing the well-being of the country's most disadvantaged children and their families.

Ms. Manza holds a masters degree from the University of Maryland School of Social Work & Community Planning, was a post-graduate fellow in Community and Organization Systems at Johns Hopkins University and is currently a doctoral student at the Bryn Mawr School of Social Work and Social Research.

Ms. Manza is also a mentor.

■ ARON MIRANDA

Featured Mentee

Committed Partners for Youth

Aron, age 12, is the middle child in a family of six. His mother and father originally came to the United States as immigrant workers. Aron and his siblings were all born in the United States and the whole family moved around the country and returned to Mexico seasonally for most of Aron's youth. Aron and his family moved to Oregon several years ago following his father's incarceration on domestic violence charges. As a sixth grader in a small elementary school in Springfield Oregon, Aron is a successful student and spends most of his free time either hanging out with his mentor, Gretchen, or doing things with his family. Aron and Gretchen were matched in April, 2006, and get together almost every week to enjoy a variety of activities. Some of their favorite activities include bowling, playing in the snow, sailing and going out to eat.

Additionally, Gretchen and Aron enjoy exploring intellectual pursuits and community service. Most recently, in preparation for their trip to Washington DC when Gretchen was awarded the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Mentoring Excellence Award, they visited the local library to learn about the nation's capital. Aron made a point of visiting the National Zoo when he was in DC and did a school report on the Panda Exhibit. Three of Aron's siblings are also in Committed Partners for Youth's TRUE Friends Mentoring Program.

■ LOWELL PERRY

CEO

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee

Lowell Perry Jr. is the Chief Executive Officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee. Perry is an experienced business development and marketing executive with an extensive broad-based background

including joint ventures, strategic alliances, start-ups, automotive, turnarounds, professional sports management, training & facilitation, and performance management, with special expertise in minority business development as a viable growth strategy.

Prior to joining Big Brothers Big Sisters as a way to give back to the community and follow his passion for enhancing the lives of young people, Perry has been involved in a number of successful entrepreneurial ventures. Some career highlights include leading a start-up automotive manufacturer from concept to \$30 million in three years, developing and implementing marketing strategies for a worldwide consumer products company, which achieved full integration across headquarters, field sales, and distributor tiers resulting in incremental sales, introducing a new paradigm in minority business development focusing on the "end-game", that saves jobs and leads to sustainable growth of disadvantaged businesses, and the creation and implementation of a successful statewide drug education prevention program targeting kids K-6.

A Yale graduate and polished communicator with extensive professional on-camera, radio, and live presenting experience, Perry has been featured in numerous sales and marketing training films and many commercials. He has also appeared in a number of feature films, including *Déjà vu*, starring Denzel Washington and *Nothing But the Truth*, featuring Kate Beckinsale.

Perry's hero is his father Lowell Sr., who served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, and as a player and coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers, before embarking on a career that led to stints as the first African-American plant manager of a major US manufacturing company, Chairman of the United States EEOC under President Gerald Ford, and two State of Michigan cabinet level positions, Director of Labor and Director of Urban Programs under Governor John Engler.

■ DE'RON SMITH

*Service Recipient
Transformation Cincinnati*

De'Ron Smith is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. Born December 24, 1967; the seventh of eight siblings, his dream was to one day become a Child Psychologist. That dream was pushed aside due to circumstances that caused his life to deviate from once optimistic sightings. His passion includes helping hurt and broken in spirit individuals, with emphasis on changing the course of our young-men and young-women. His firm belief is "unless we truly discover who we are, we'll become what-ever someone wants us to be." He exemplifies, through his amazing triumph, the quote, "What-so-ever a man thinketh in his heart---so is he."

Mr. Smith is not only an Author and powerful Inspirational Speaker, but works diligently as an Intervention Consultant for schools and organizations in his home town. He is the founder of a non-profit organization called Extended Systems, an Entrepreneur and Community-Activist. He is an active board-member for an organization that reaches into and aid in-mates through-out the Ohio prison system. Mr. Smith has appeared on numerous radio and television shows, and has also been featured in newspapers inspiring many with his power message of "Triumph." What it takes to succeed is faith, ambition, perseverance, and discipline, he states.

He himself is inspired by many before him. It is not his intent to reinvent the wheel, but to be an essential link in keeping the function there-of moving forward. His life serves as a representation that change is possible for anyone who would dare pursue it!

■ SHADERRA WALLACE

*Featured Mentee
New York City Mission Society*

Shaderra is a fourteen yr old freshman at the A. Phillip Randolph Campus H.S. in Harlem New York. She lives in Brooklyn NY with her Mother and Brother. Shaderra is a good student. She loves reading, writing and performing her poetry. She is also a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

■ CRYSTAL WHITE

*Featured Mentor
New York City Mission Society*

Crystal White lives on Brooklyn New York with her 17 yr old, who will be entering college this fall. She has been employed with a telecommunications company for twenty years. She has been a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Brooklyn for fifteen years and is a member of the trustees board. Ms. White and Shaderra have been matched for over four years.

■ JAY WINSTEN

*Associate Dean, Harvard School of Public Health
Director, Harvard Mentoring Project*

Jay A. Winsten, Ph.D., is an Associate Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health and the Frank Stanton Director of the School's Center for Health Communication. He created the Center in 1985 to mobilize the immense power of mass communication to improve public health. Winsten is credited as the architect of the Designated Driver Campaign in the United States. He convinced Hollywood writers to depict the use of designated drivers in TV shows and feature films with the aim of changing societal norms, attitudes and behaviors. A majority of the American

public adopted the practice of choosing a designated driver, and alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the U.S. fell by over 25%.

For the past ten years, Winsten and his colleagues have led a national media campaign, in collaboration with nonprofit groups, leading television networks and Hollywood studios, to recruit volunteer mentors for at-risk youth. As an outgrowth of the media campaign, the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership created National

Mentoring Month in 2002 with the strong support of President George W. Bush, leading members of Congress, and numerous mayors and governors across the country. Winsten received his Ph.D. in molecular biology from The Johns Hopkins University, and conducted cancer research at Harvard Medical School with Nobel laureate Mario Capecchi. He served as co-editor, along with Nobel laureate James D. Watson and Dr. Howard Hiatt, of a three-volume *Origins of Human Cancer*.

